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vantages of vitamine preparations, it is particularly important that investigators in nutrition exert great care in the wording of statements as to the practical significance of vitamins in every day life. Otherwise they may become unwilling accomplices in the perpetration of a gigantic fraud upon the American public.

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### ANSEL AUGUSTUS TYLER

THE sudden death of Professor Tyler of Millikin University (Decatur) on March 31 from pneumonia has taken from the institution and the college circle of the state a quiet and faithful worker whose place will be hard to fill.

Ansel Augustus Tyler was born at East Bridgewater, Pa., on March 7, 1869. He received his A.B. at Lafayette College in 1892, and won the Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1897. Thereafter he taught botany or biology for a year each at Union College, Syracuse and Arizona, with such success that in 1900 he was called to take charge of this work at Bellevue College in Omaha. At that date the prospects before Bellevue were alluring and he threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of building up not only his own department but also the college itself. The high appreciation in which his efforts were held was manifested by his election as dean of the college in 1911, a position which he held as long as he remained there. But the fortunes of Bellevue suffered serious reverses and, although Tyler devoted himself unsparingly to its service, he found the institution steadily losing ground through influences which he could not control or modify. So in 1916 he accepted a call to take charge of the department of biology at Millikin University. Here again he was formed to carry a heavy load of teaching during a transition period, but a year ago was granted some much needed aid in his department and had just started to realize his cherished ambition of developing that work when his career was so prematurely terminated.

Tyler's ability as a college student won him the Latin salutation on graduation and also

election to Phi Beta Kappa. His later work brought him in 1898 membership in Sigma Xi. He was a fellow of the American Association and a working member of the State Academies in Nebraska and Illinois. In 1908 he was honored by election as president of the Nebraska Academy. Although quiet and retiring in personality, he was always ready to carry his part in enterprises of public merit. Thus in 1910 there was organized a movement to secure and preserve for Omaha a splendid and unique tract of wild forest near that city. Tyler served as secretary of this organization, the Fontanelle Forest Association, until he left Bellevue, and did much to develop public sentiment in favor of the project, which has recently realized much of its hopes through a generous gift from a public spirited citizen of Omaha.

But Dr. Tyler's greatest work was after all in his department. He inspired many college generations with his own high ideals of service and love of the truth. From his class room went out a steady stream of students filled with love of science and steadied by his calm and thoughtful leadership to test the offerings of life, to reject the hollow and false, and to cherish the true. Such service to the college and the state can not be measured in formal terms but will always be held in grateful remembrance by his students and his colleagues, as well as by the many other friends to whom he devoted himself equally unselfishly.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### RESEARCH WORK IN COAL MINING

THROUGH the efforts of the coal operators of western Pennsylvania, another year of extensive research work in coal mining will be conducted by the cooperative department of mining engineering of Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Pittsburgh Experimental Station of the United States Bureau of Mines. The research will be carried on through teaching and research fellowships appointed by the Carnegie Institute of Technology and supervised by senior investigators in the Experimental Station.

The establishment of four fellowships to do this work in 1922 and 1923 is an endorsement of similar investigations conducted this past year at these institutions. Four fellowships were established a year ago by the advisory board of coal operators of the cooperative department of mining engineering at the institute. They also chose the problems for the research work. The Pittsburgh district is the first to take this progressive step in solving the problems of coal mining. When the results of the research work are broadcasted, the whole industry should be benefited.

The investigations of the four research fellows conducted the past year are completed and reports will soon be available to the coal industry. For the coming year, appointments have already been made by the cooperative department of coal mining to begin the work in September. The problems selected by the advisory board of operators have been assigned to the fellows in accordance with their specific training and adaptability. In making the appointments, applications were considered from all parts of the United States, reflecting the wide interest at large in research work of coal mining problems.

The four problems to be investigated, as recommended by the advisory board, are: (1) De-sulphurization of coke. (2) Corrosion problem with regard to acid mine waters. (3) Microscopic study of the Pittsburgh coal seam. (4) By-product study of the roof coal of the Pittsburgh coal seam.

The appointments and assignments for 1922-3 are:

*Teaching Fellows:* John H. Thompson, B.S. metallurgy, 1922, University of Washington, under Dr. Alfred R. Powell, physical chemist, of the United States Bureau of Mines, and V. F. Parry, B.S. mechanical engineering, 1922, University of Utah, under Joseph D. Davis, fuels chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines.

*Research Fellows:* J. Richard Adams, B. S. physical chemistry, 1922, Cornell University, under R. J. Anderson, metallurgist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and James U. Staud, B. S. geology, 1922, Pennsylvania State College, under Dr. Reinhardt Thiessen, research microscopist, U. S. Bureau of Mines.

## THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE seventh annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 26-28, 1922. The regular sessions for the reading of papers will be open to all interested persons.

Members and others desiring to communicate results of optical research are invited to submit titles of papers for the program to the secretary any time before September 25. Titles received after that date can not be included in the program. Address Irwin G. Priest, secretary, Optical Society of America, care of Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. Each title must be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 300 words. These abstracts will be printed in the program and in the minutes of the meeting. The purpose of the abstract is to give: (1) a more definite description of the *nature* and *scope* of the paper than can be conveyed in the title, (2) the essential results in so far as may be possible in the limited space allowed. It is hoped that the advance publication of these abstracts will prepare those attending the meeting to consider the papers more intelligently and with much greater interest. Authors are urged to cooperate in this effort by preparing their abstracts carefully with this end in view. They are also asked to submit with each abstract a careful estimate of the time which will be necessary and sufficient to present the paper briefly but adequately. In preparing the program the secretary will be guided by these estimates insofar as time will permit.

No title will be printed to be presented "by title." Titles should not be submitted unless the author has a bona fide intention to actually present the paper orally or have it presented by some one else.

One session will be devoted to vision and physiologic optics.

An exhibit of optical instruments and apparatus will be held at the Bureau of Standards in connection with this meeting. Communications relative to this exhibit should be addressed to Professor C. A. Skinner, chairman, exhibit committee, Optical Society of America, Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.